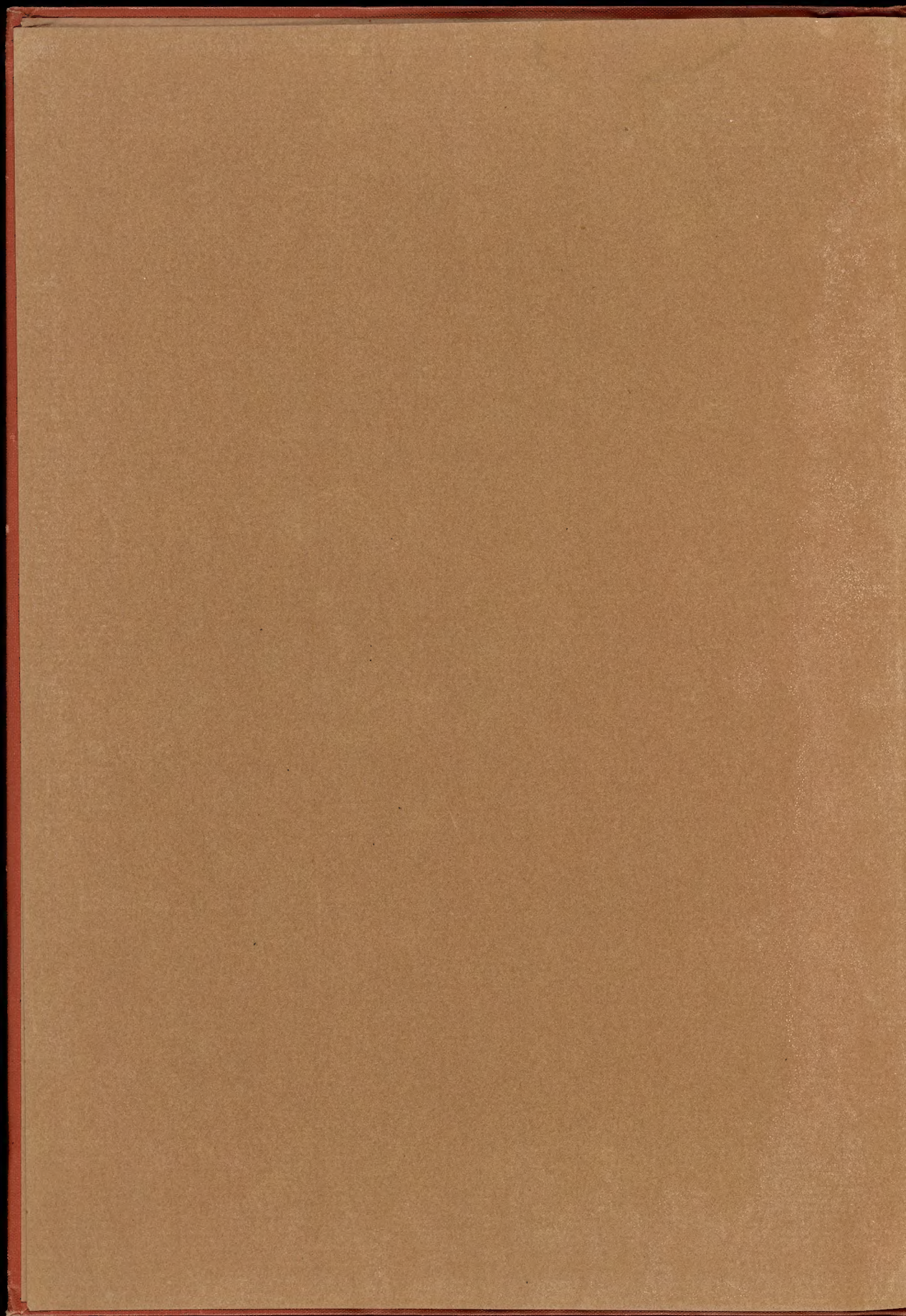


OLD ARCHITECTURE
OF
SOUTHERN MEXICO









OLD ARCHITECTVRE
OF
SOVTHERN MEXICO

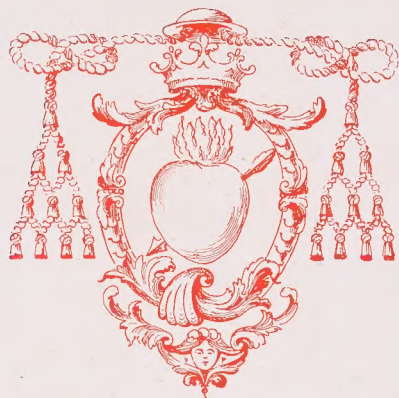


GATES OF CHURCH OF SAN JOSE

GUADALAJARA

OLD ARCHITECTVRE OF SOVTHERN MEXICO

By
GARRETT VAN PELT JR. A. I. A.



J. H. Jansen, Publisher,
Cleveland

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PRINTED JUNE, NINETEEN-TWENTY-SIX
CLEVELAND, OHIO

THE BRITTON-GARDNER PRINTING CO.
CLEVELAND, OHIO, U. S. A.

INTRODUCTION

MEXICO, our nearest neighbor republic, a land to tempt the brush of an artist and to intoxicate an architect in search of the picturesque, with its indescribable carved church fronts, glazed tile domes, sun-splashed patios, over all of which time has cast a mellowing spell—this land which is touched on either coast by ocean steamships, entered from the north by three main railway lines, yet woefully neglected as a vacation ground. ♪ If you arrive by way of the west coast you will hurry through the picturesque dishevelment of Manzanillo to Colima, whose arcaded plaza will always remain a memory of gay colors and deep shadows, of townsfolk in white with brilliant serapes flung over one shoulder, of dashing caballeros mounted upon well-groomed ponies, come from the haciendas to stroll about in the cool of the evening. ♪ Guadalajara, second city of Mexico in size, next claims your attention. Your immediate and lasting impression will be of a clean, well-ordered city—of clamorous and insistent bells none too resonant—of austere churches whose walls rise unadorned, except for bold buttresses topped by stone finials, and pierced by simple doorways. ♪ From Silao, a nervous little engine and coach on a spur road, kindly dubbed "The Burro", meanders over the hills to Guanajuato, one of the oldest and most picturesque of towns. Soon after the conquest of Mexico in 1521, its vast mines began filling the coffers of the Spanish Crown, and as it grew in wealth, much was lavished for its beautifying. Narrow winding

streets ending in steep stairways run up the hills through the huddle of adobe dwellings past churches of highly imaginative elegance, and affording one alluring glimpses of buildings of every conceivable color which the magic of sun and rain have transformed into subtle and exquisite harmonies. Particularly should be seen the church of the Valenciana, whose unforgettable, exuberant Churrigueresque will ever be one of the outstanding achievements of the land. ♡ Querétaro, founded in 1440, boasts much of architectural merit—curious and interesting facades; quiet, fascinating patios tucked away from the street; churches with narrow naves filled with superbly carved and gilded Churrigueresque altars and retablos rising from floor to vaulting, lining the walls from pier to pier, creating interiors bizarre yet overpoweringly sumptuous. ♡ Not far from here, at Celaya, is to be found the finest example of the skilled Tresguerras, indefatigable artist and architect, the church of Nuestra Señora del Carmen. Exquisitely proportioned, its dome dominates the city, and a dawning sun touching its yellow and green tiling, gives one a lasting thrill. ♡ Morelia, another little city of neatly brushed-up appearance, well repays a visit in spite of the exasperating train service. When one leaves the main railway lines one must perforce expect to arrive at one's destination far after midnight and to leave long ere dawn. The cathedral is Mexico's outstanding masterpiece in Plateresque style; the delicate and characteristic decoration is concentrated about the great nave and transept portals and upon the aspiring towers. There are numerous other churches, convents and secular buildings constructed of a stone of pink hue, which unfortunately has offered a tempting surface upon which to vent a thoroughly

Mexican propensity for sticking placards and posters, to one's consternation and indignation. Neighboring Patzcuaro, brooding beside its lake—once a place of no mean importance—and the somnolent Indian hut village of Tzin-Tzun-Tzan, of ancient lineage, boasting a celebrated painting by Titian, lie far from the centers of creature comforts. Leaving here, it is a fitting contrast to find one's self in the bustle and noise of Mexico City, whose broad streets and orderly architecture impress one with the influence of Paris and Vienna. Its site was in ancient times a lake, consequently many a cornice line sags; here and there an entire facade bulges, and even a tower or two leans far out to catch a glimpse up and down the street. The cathedral, massive and conventional, bulking at one end of the great Zócalo, is the largest church edifice in North America, yet architecturally, it is quite overshadowed by the adjoining church of the Sagrario, with remarkably carved portals set in walls of deep red-stained volcanic stone—a material which has been used for centuries with striking effect throughout the city. Churches abound, and many an old palace and patio bear witness to a time when priests and populace vied to produce impressive, even amazing, structures. Well deserving of a visit are the environs, such as San Angel, Coyoacan, and the remarkable convent church at Tepozotlan. Cuernavaca, sadly mistreated by Zapata, boasts a primitive Franciscan Cathedral, battlemented and with dome and tower, composing into a picture tantalizing to an artist, whether seen from a distant hillside or glimpsed from a courtyard or narrow lane close by. Journeying eastward through drowsy old San Juan Teotihuacan with its Aztec temples and pyramids; then through dozing Tlaxcala, one knows that Puebla

is not afar off, watched over by snow-topped volcanoes. Churches push their glistening tile domes above a clustering of trees in ever-increasing numbers, until one wonders at the time when these must have demanded vast fortunes to have built so profusely, and to have required many a widow's mite to keep the candles lighted. One of Puebla's principal industries, the manufacture of "Azulejos," or polychrome tiles, was brought from Spain in the middle of the 16th century, and is flourishing to this day. Of particular interest are the great numbers of buildings entirely faced with tiles laid in patterns, and the finest examples of domes encrusted with tiling, daring in color and design, give to Puebla its most distinctive keynote. Riding to Cholula on a diminutive and uncertain tram-car, which mayhap will become burro-drawn before you arrive, you are again impressed with the evidence of the power once wielded by the priesthood when this was a flourishing city. Churches fairly swarm about one as perhaps nowhere else. ♪To Oaxaca over a narrow-gauge railway, suffering a tiresome ride, one hastily revives with a few moments stroll about this city of green trees and green stone facades, churches, doorways, balconies and grilles, unusually reminiscent of old Spain. Of interest to archaeologists are the Zapotec remains of Mitla, a few hours ride across a hot waste of desert. ♪Northward again, the train drops from the plateau of Southern Mexico to the semi-tropical humidity of Orizaba and Vera Cruz, from where one can embark for New York, having completed a most comprehensive survey of a civilization transplanted from Spain about 1521, developing with an amazing rapidity and producing architecture of a very fine distinction, essentially Spanish, yet because of environ-

ment, materials and the acquirement of vast wealth, at once extraordinarily individual. Not alone is one impressed with the brilliance and novelty of the larger buildings of recognized merit, but irresistibly delightful are the odd and imaginative bits of architecture found lurking down unsuspected by-ways, painted with every conceivable color, bathed in vivid sunlight, and streaked with luminous blue shadows. The spirit of this charm and creative ingenuity will be apparent from many of the photographs in this volume, and while there are included views of some of the larger edifices, it has been the intention to reproduce principally the buildings and details of a more intimate character.



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SACRISTY DOOR

CONVENT IN QUERÉTARO



QUERÉTARO

CORNER OF A PATIO



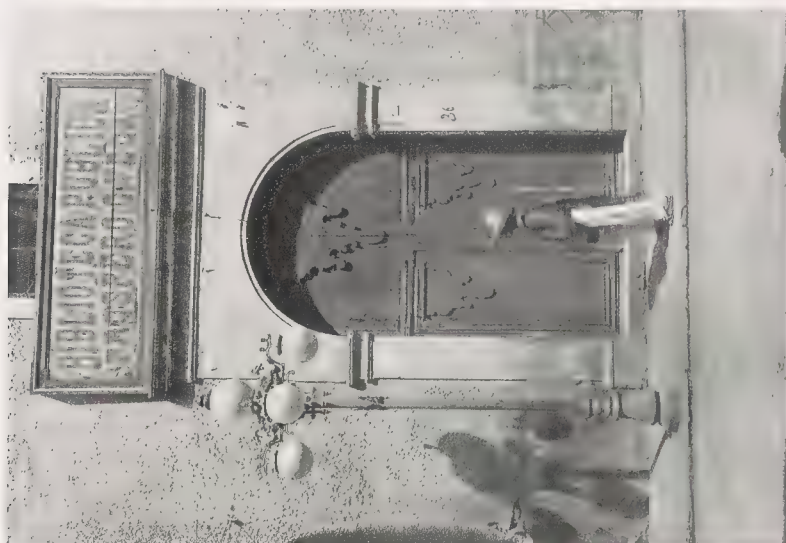
QUERÉTARO

CORNER FOUNTAIN



QUERETARO

A CHURCHYARD GATEWAY



QUERETARO

DOORWAY



AN OLD FOUNTAIN

QUERETARO



DOORWAY

QUERETARO



A WALL IN QUERETARO



QUERETARO

A PORTALE



QUERETARO

A DOOR



FROM A ROOF

QUERETARO



FROM A ROOF

QUERETARO



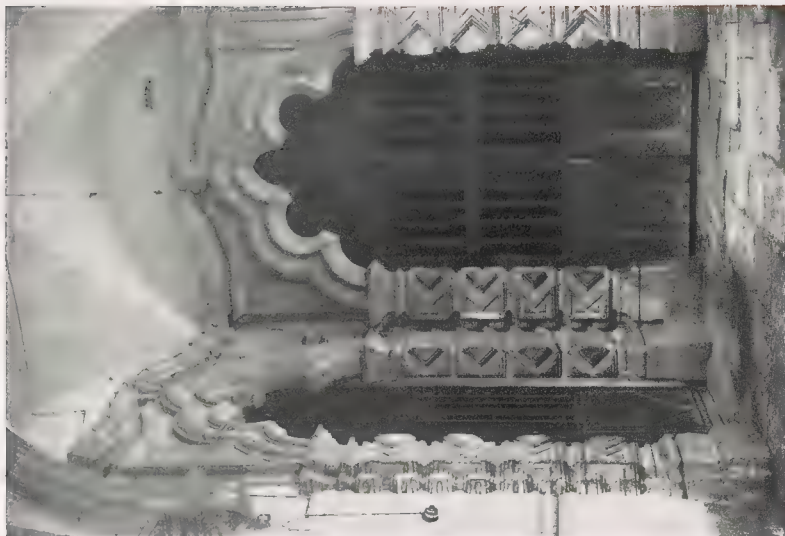
DOOR IN A CONVENT

QUERETARO



THROUGH AN ARCH

QUERETARO



QUERETARO

DOORWAY IN CONVENT PATIO



QUERETARO

DOORWAY, CONVENT OF SANTA ROSA



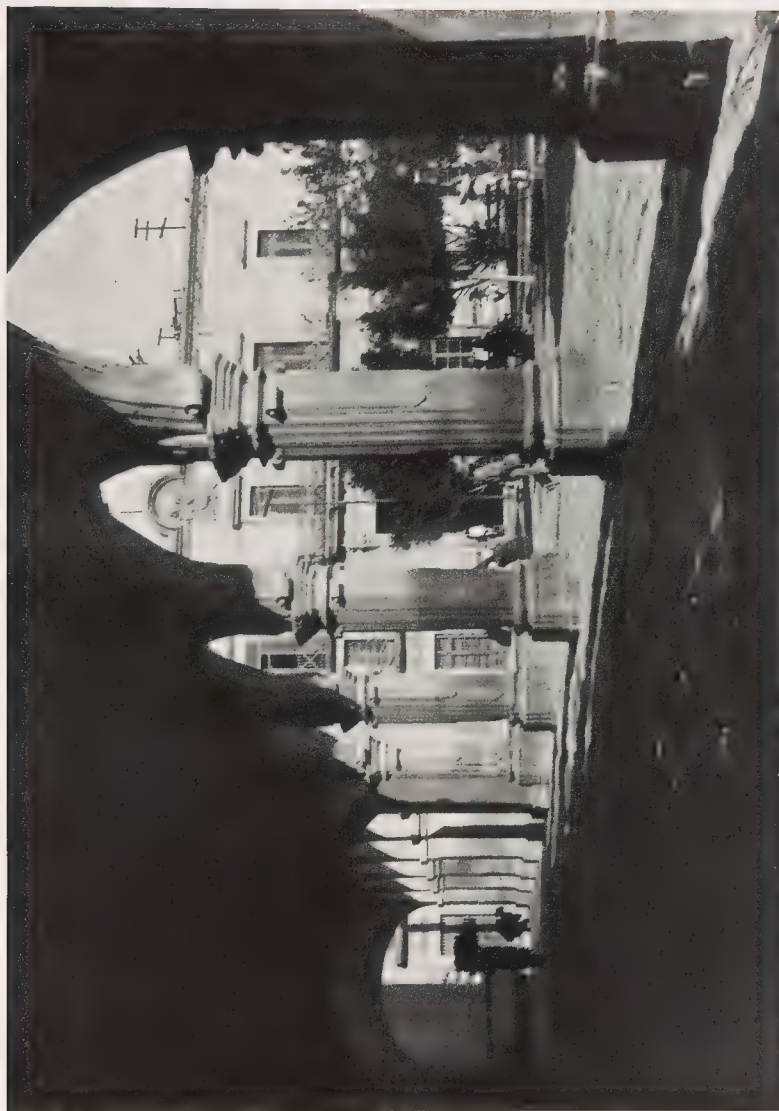
A WELL AND PATIO

QUERETARO



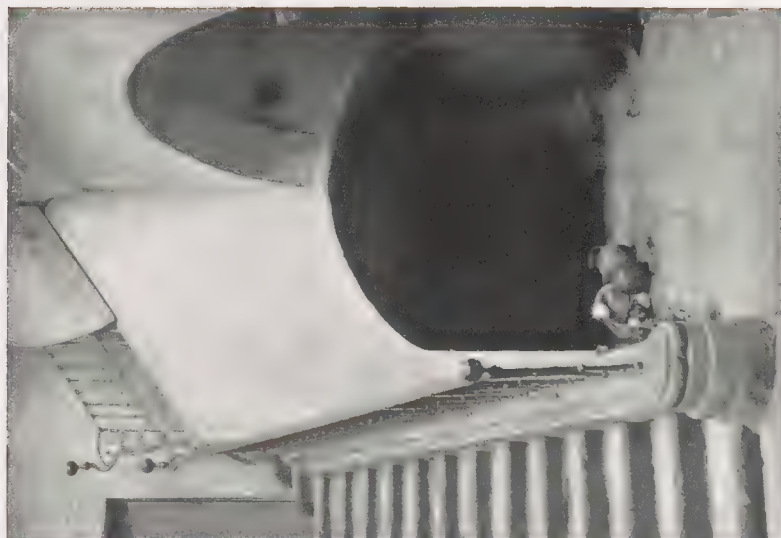
BENCH IN CHURCH OF SANTA ROSA

QUERETARO



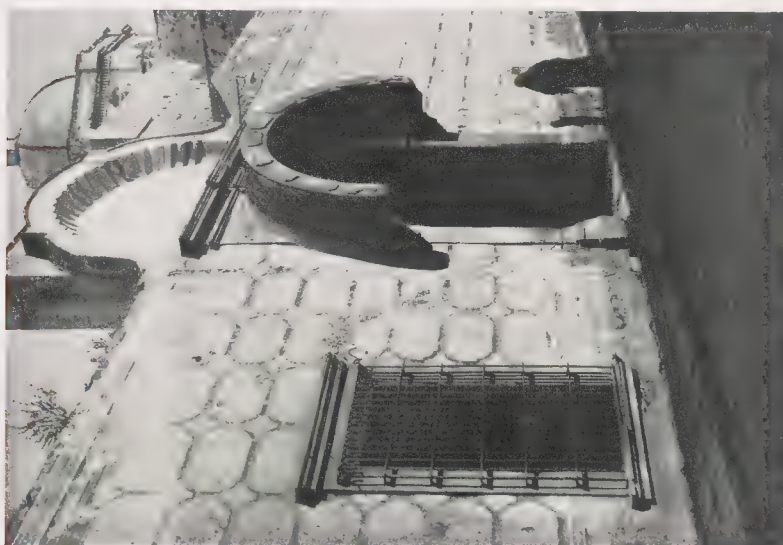
QUERETARO

BENEATH AN ARCADE



QUERETARO

A PATIO STAIRWAY



QUERETARO

A DOOR



DETAIL OF BUILDING

QUERETARO



DOORWAY

QUERETARO



FOUNTAIN IN PATIO

QUERETARO



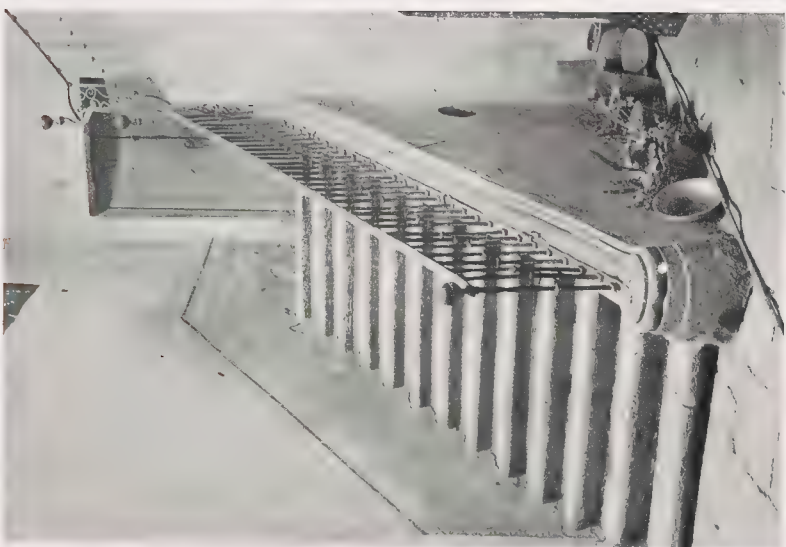
STREET

QUERETARO



QUERETARO

PATIO



QUERETARO

A STAIRWAY



CORNER BALCONY

QUERETARO



STREET CORNER

QUERETARO

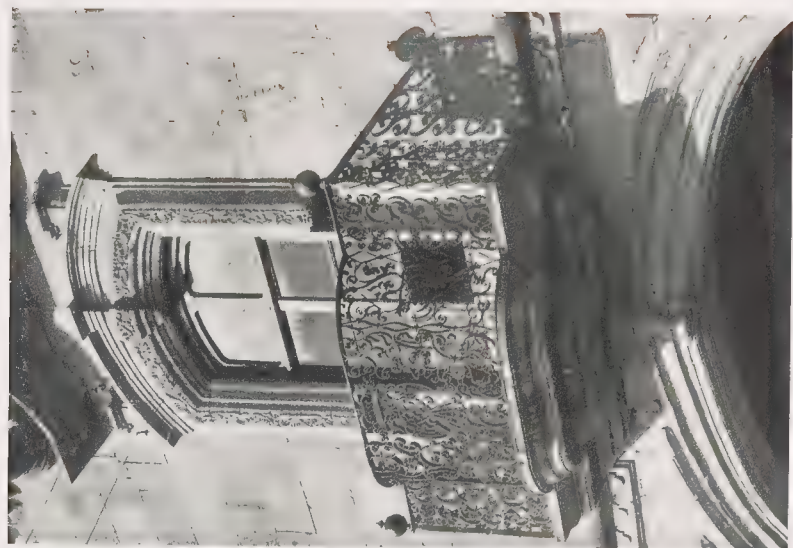


A CORNER IN QUERETARO



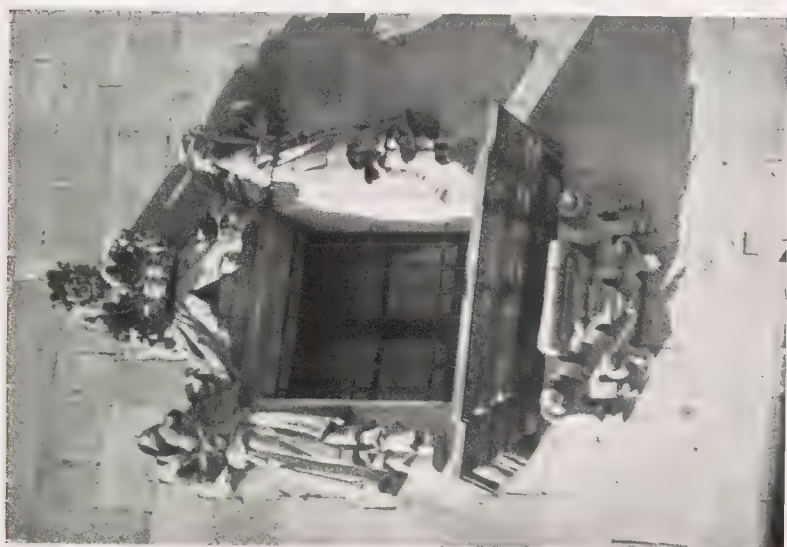
STREET SCENE

QUERETARO



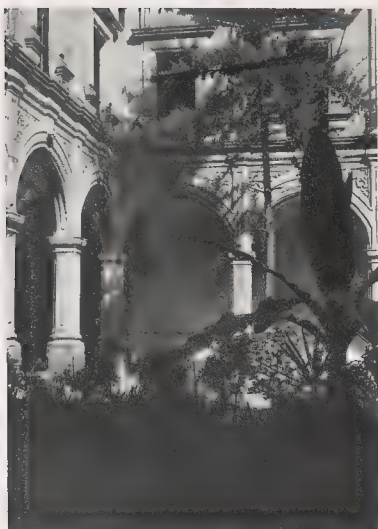
QUERETARO

A BALCONY



QUERETARO

A WINDOW



A PATIO

QUERETARO



A PATIO

QUERETARO



A CORNER BALCONY

QUERETARO



CORNER BALCONY

QUERETARO



A BUILDING IN QUERETARO



THE PARROQUIA

QUERETARO



A LATTICE DOOR

VERA CRUZ



THROUGH A PATIO GATE

COLIMA



CONVENT CHURCH

TEPOTZOTLAN



DETAIL ON THE PARAPET

CONVENT OF TEPOTZOTLAN



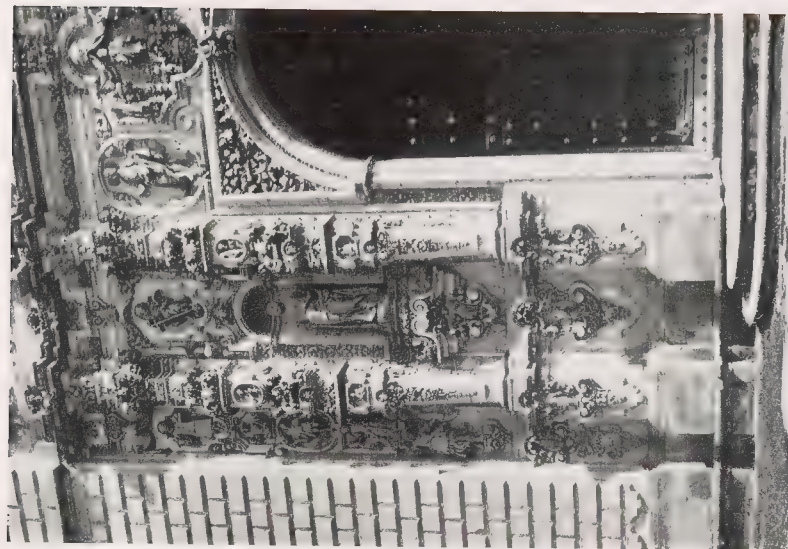
CONVENT OF TEPOTZOTLAN

OVER THE ROOFS



THE CONVENT WALL

TEPOTZOTLAN



DETAIL OF FACADE OF CONVENT OF TEPOTZOTLAN



A CORNER

CUERNAVACA



COURTYARD

CUERNAVACA



A CORNER BALCONY

CUERNAVACA



A TILE GRILL

CUERNAVACA



STREET

CUERNAVACA



DWELLING

CUERNAVACA



CATHEDRAL, OVER THE HOUSE TOPS

CUERNAVACA



IN THE BORDA GARDENS

CUERNAVACA



A PATIO

CUERNAVACA



CHAPEL OF SAN FRANCISCO

CUERNAVACA



IN THE CATHEDRAL YARD

CUERNAVACA



CORNER FOUNTAIN

SAN MIGUEL ALLENDE



A FACADE IN SAN MIGUEL ALLENDE



SMALL HOUSE



MITLA



INN

MITLA



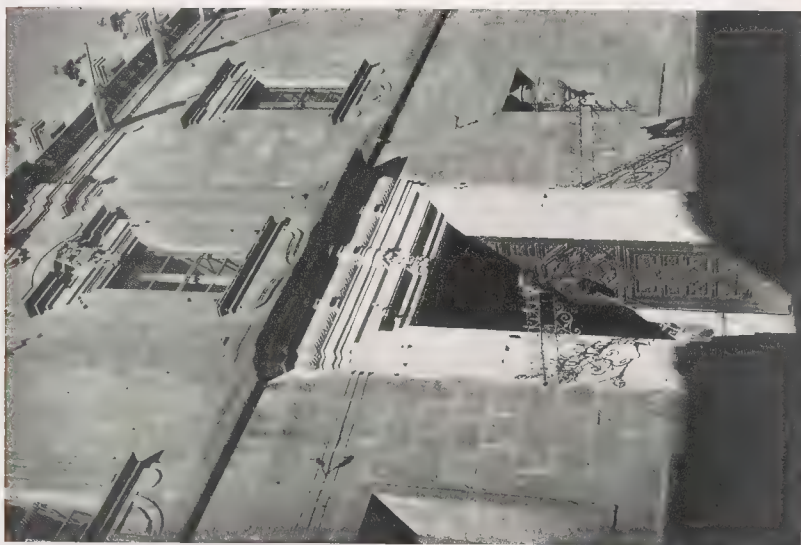
DETAIL IN A PATIO

CUERNAVACA



THE TRANSEPT DOOR

CATHEDRAL OF MORELIA



DOORWAY

MORELIA



DOOR, CHURCH OF EL CARMEN

MORELIA



MORELIA

A CONVENT



MORELIA

A PATIO AND WELL



DOORWAY, CHURCH OF SAN FRANCISCO

GUADALAJARA



A CHURCHYARD FOUNTAIN

SAN PEDRO NEAR GUADALAJARA



CORNER BALCONY

GUADALAJARA



CHURCH OF SAN FRANCISCO

GUADALAJARA



CORNER AND BALCONY

GUADALAJARA



CHURCH OF OUR LADY

GUADALAJARA



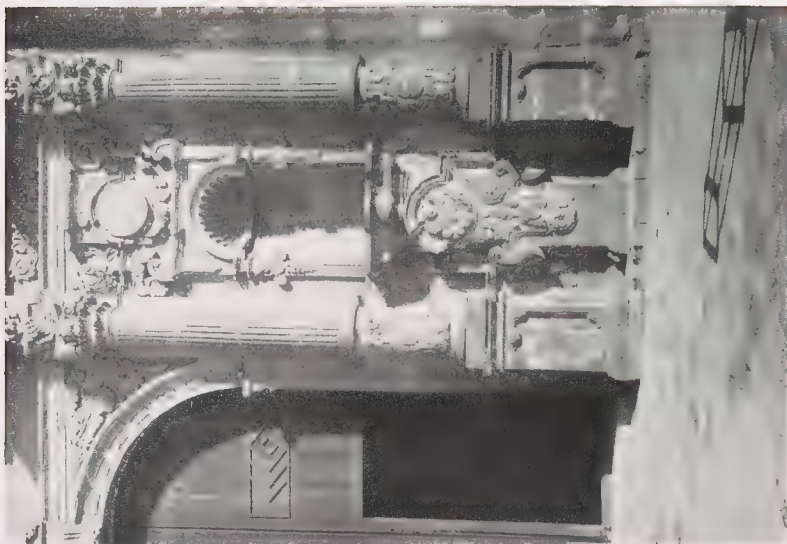
DOORWAY

GUADALAJARA



A PATIO

GUADALAJARA



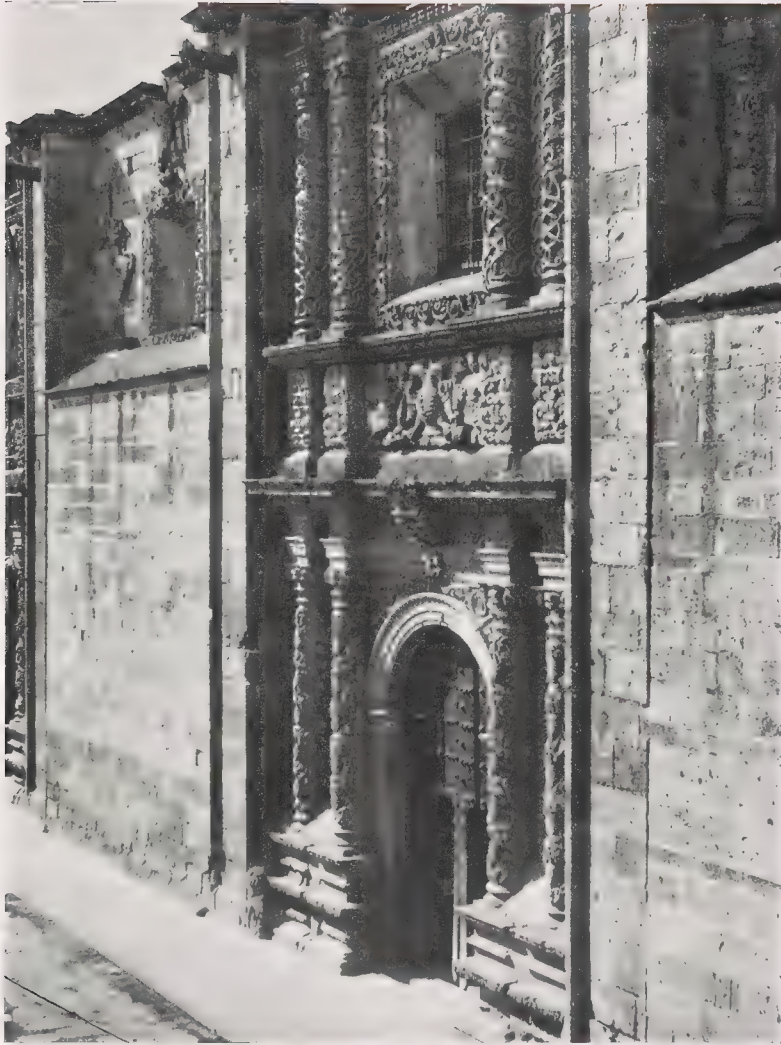
GUADALAJARA

DETAIL OF FACADE OF SAN JUAN



GUADALAJARA

DETAIL, CHURCH OF SAN JUAN



CHURCH OF SANTA MONICA

GUADALAJARA



WINDOW, CHURCH OF SANTA MONICA

GUADALAJARA



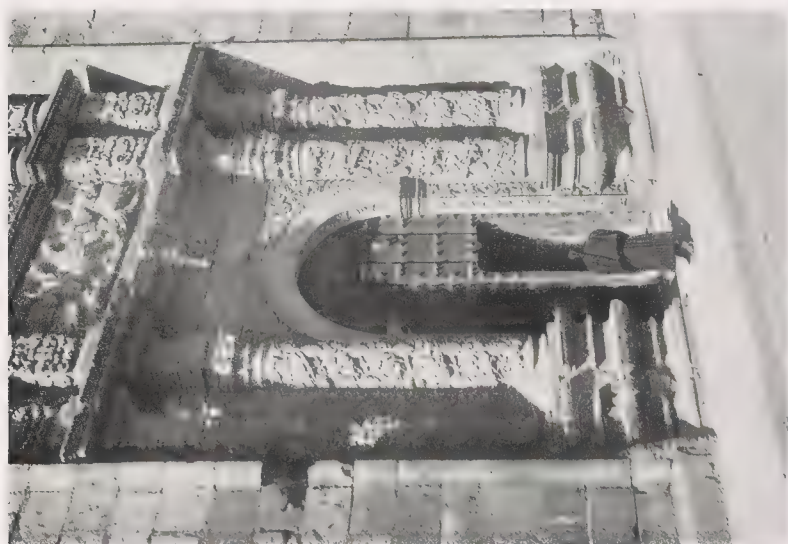
WINDOW DETAIL, CHURCH OF SANTA MONICA

GUADALAJARA



GUADALAJARA

WINDOW DETAIL



GUADALAJARA

DETAIL OF SANTA MONICA



DOORWAY

GUADALAJARA



DOORWAY

GUADALAJARA



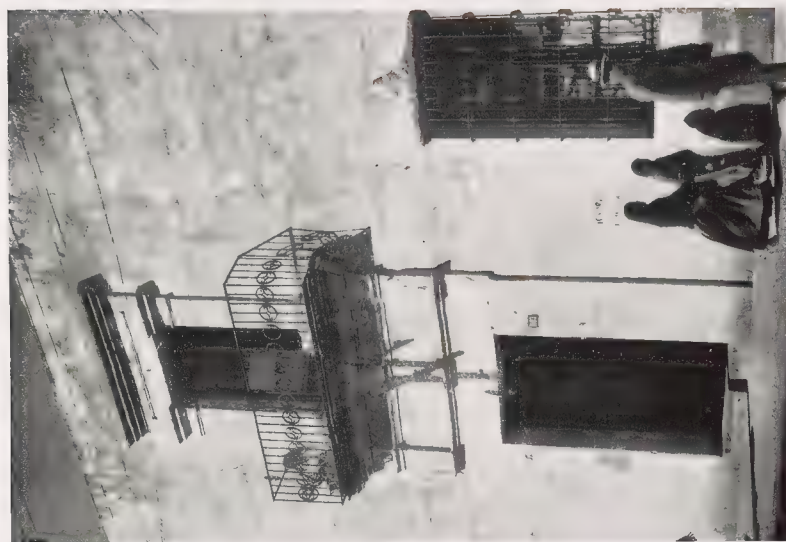
CHURCH OF SAN FELIPE

GUADALAJARA



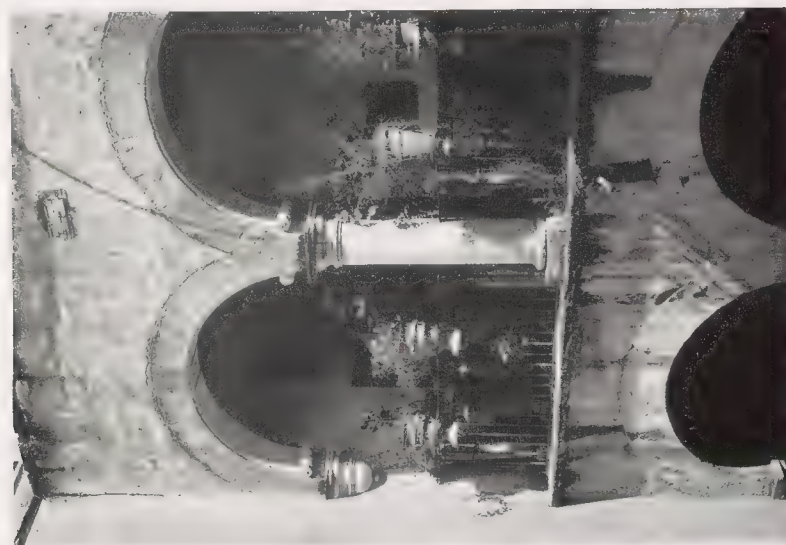
CHURCH OF SANTA MONICA

GUADALAJARA



GUADALAJARA

BALCONY



GUADALAJARA

IN A PATIO



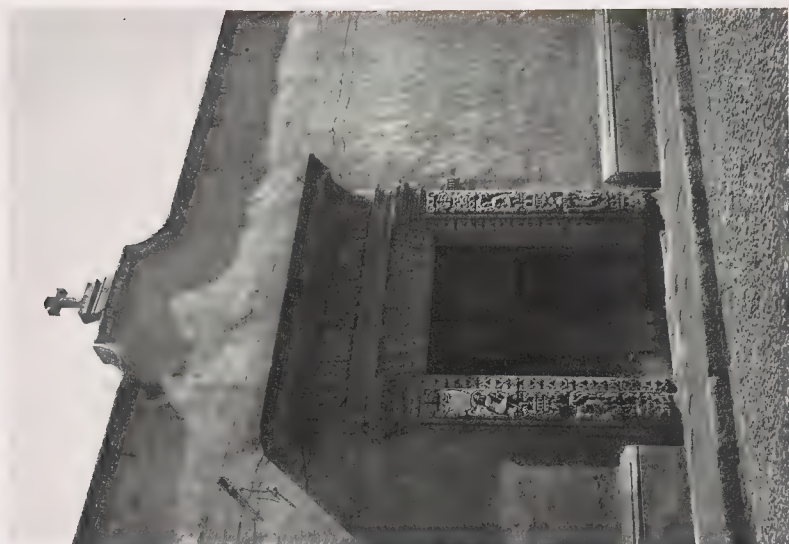
A FACADE

GUADALAJARA



A CARVED SACRISTY DOOR

GUADALAJARA



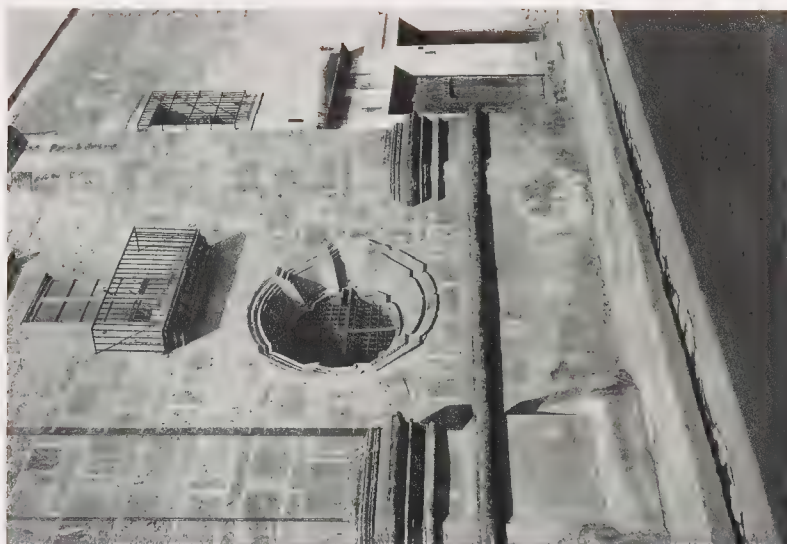
GUADALAJARA

A DOORWAY



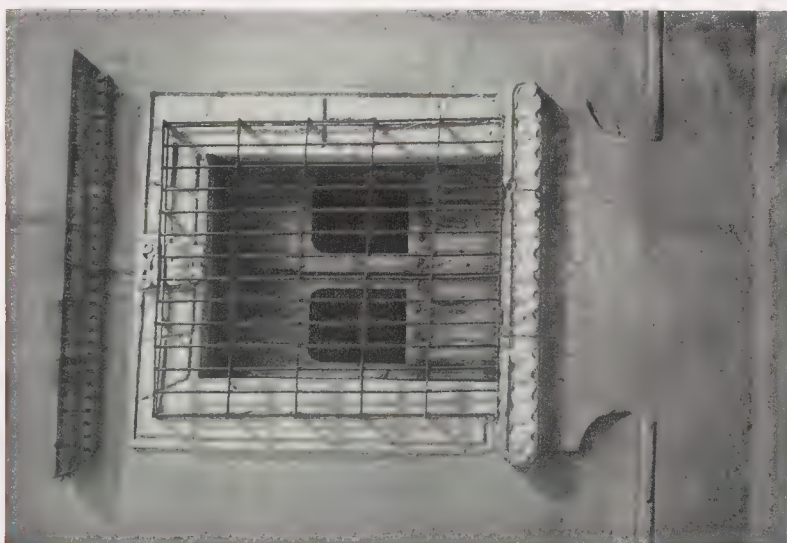
GUADALAJARA

A PORTAL



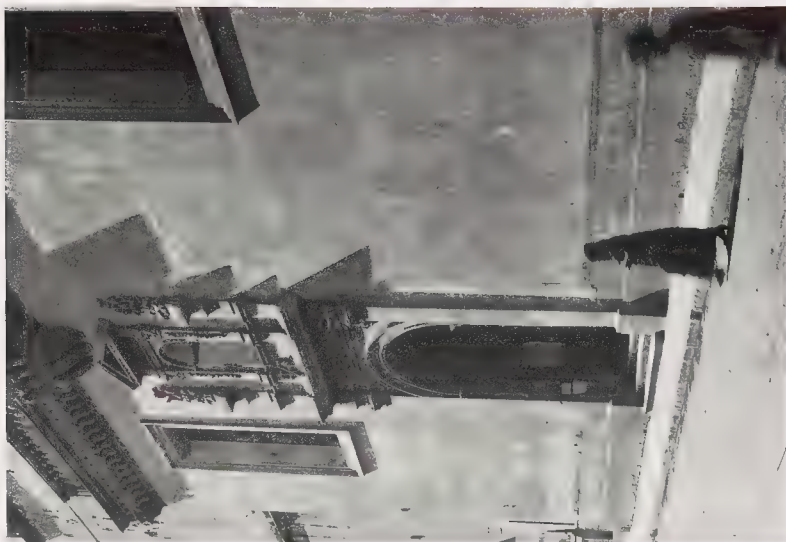
GUADALAJARA

DETAIL OF A CHURCH



GUADALAJARA

A WINDOW



GUADALAJARA

A DOORWAY



GUADALAJARA

DOORWAY, SAN JUAN DE DIOS



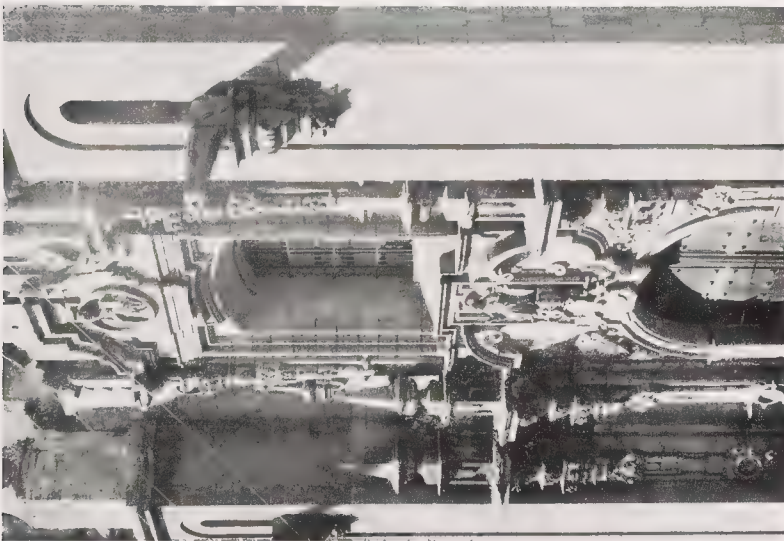
CHURCH

VERA CRUZ



GUANAJUATO

SACRISTY DOOR IN LA COMPAÑIA



GUANAJUATO

WINDOW IN CHURCH OF LA COMPAÑIA



SAN CAYETANO DE LA VALENCIANA

NEAR GUANAJUATO

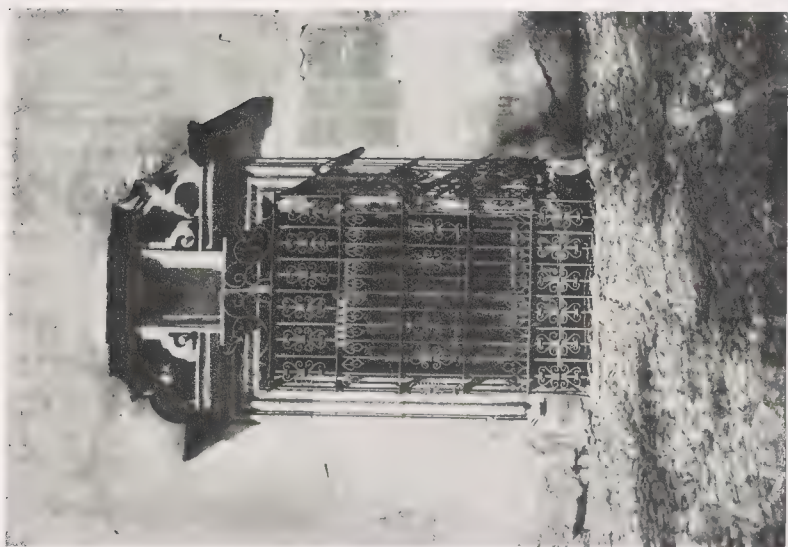


SAN CAYETANO DE LA VALENCIANA

NEAR GUANAJUATO



WINDOW AT VALENCIANA NEAR GUANAJUATO



WINDOW AT VALENCIANA NEAR GUANAJUATO

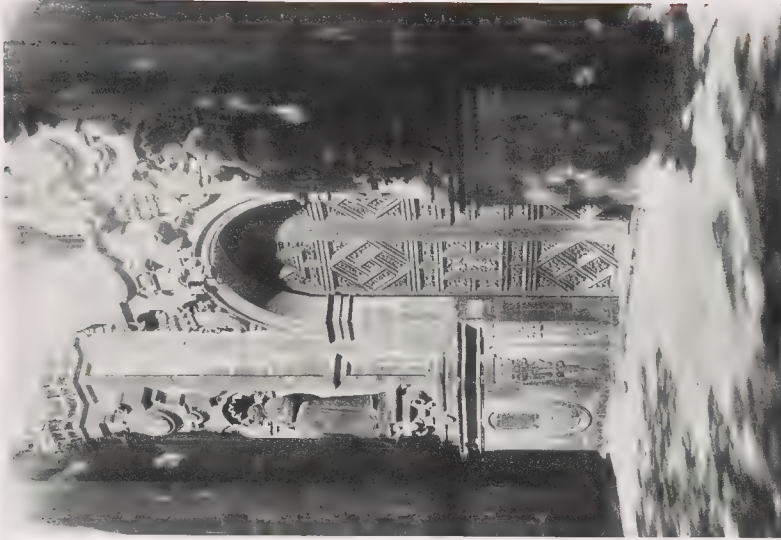


A CORNER IN GUANAJUATO



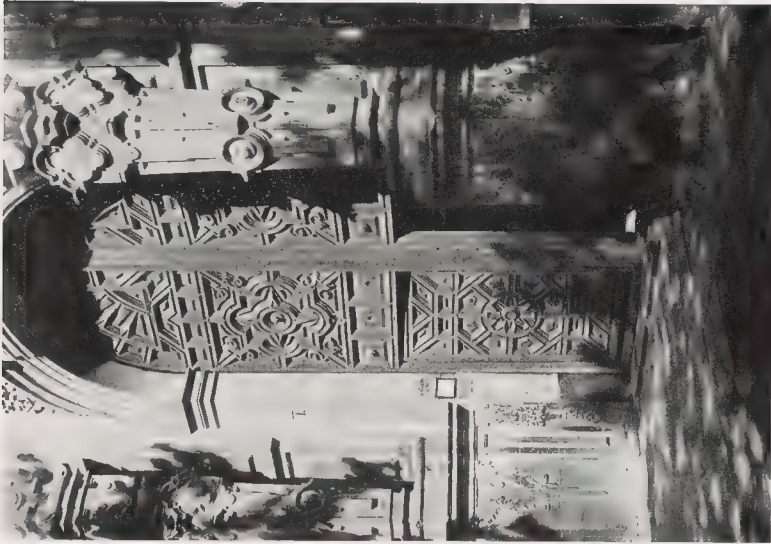
GUANAJUATO

CHURCH OF GUADALUPE



GUANAJUATO

CHURCH DOOR

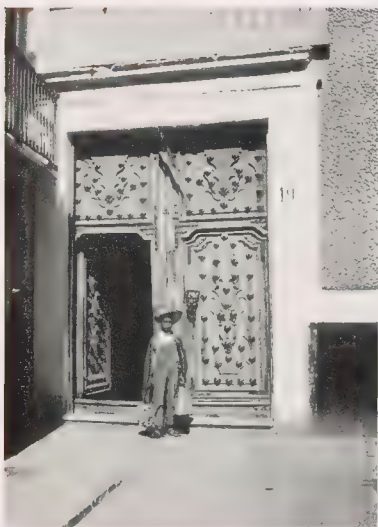


GUANAJUATO

CHURCH DOOR



A STREET IN SAN JUAN TEOTIHUACAN



DOOR

GUANAJUATO



BARRACKS

MORELIA



A PATIO

COLIMA



A PATIO

COLIMA



THE PORTALS OF COLIMA



GUADALAJARA

A STREET CORNER



COLIMA

IN A PATIO



GUADALAJARA

PATIO



COLIMA

CORNER COLUMN



A COURTYARD

CELAYA



A HACIENDA WALL NEAR CELAYA



STAIRWAY IN CONVENT

TEPOTZOTLAN



CHURCH OF LA COMPANIA

OAXACA



CELAYA

STREET



CELAYA

A DOORWAY



YELLOW TILE DOME

CELAYA



A CHAPEL

CELAYA



THE MARKET

CELAYA



AN ARCADE CORNER

CELAYA



A GARDEN

CELAYA



PATIO

CELAYA



TRESGUERRAS' DOME

CELAYA



WALK IN CHURCHYARD

CELAYA



A SACRISTY IN CELAYA



QUERETARO

FACADE



GUANAJUATO

A PLAZA



OAXACA

GATEWAY AND WALL



CELAYA

ARCADE



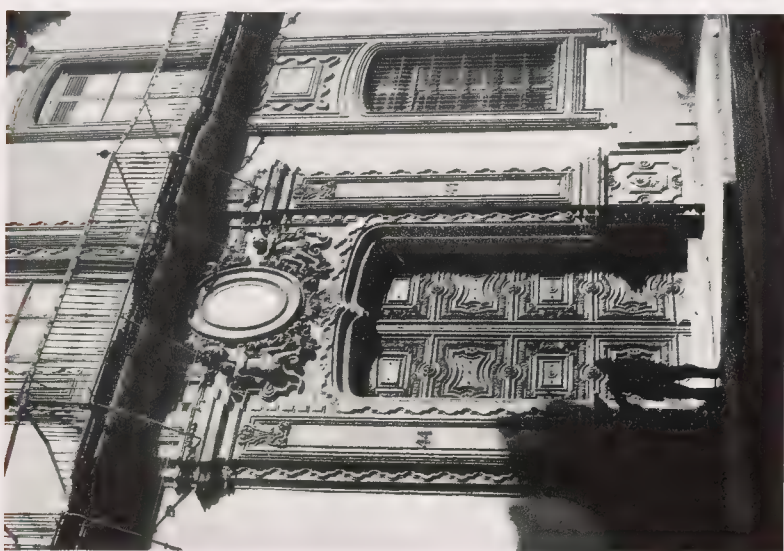
DOORWAY

MEXICO CITY



MEXICO CITY

DOORWAY



MEXICO CITY

A DOORWAY



STREET SCENE

MEXICO CITY



STREET CORNER

MEXICO CITY



OLD COURTYARD

MEXICO CITY



DOORWAY

MEXICO CITY



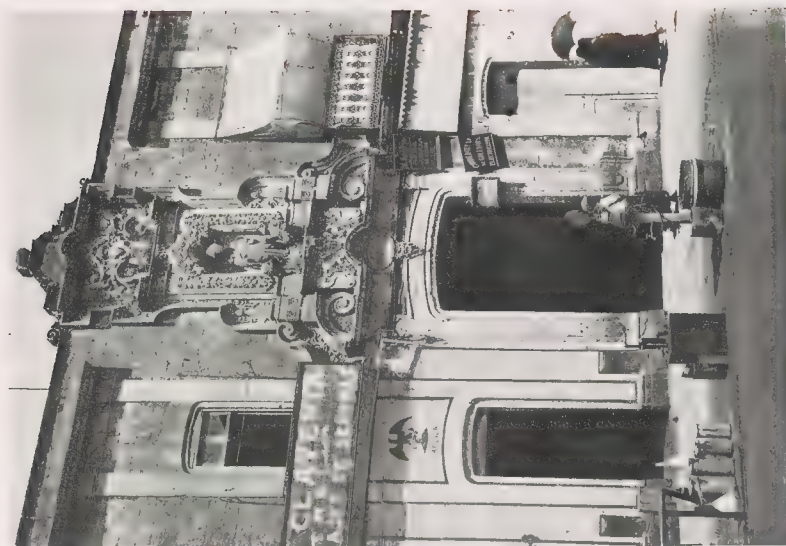
A CHURCH DOORWAY

MEXICO CITY



DOORWAY

MEXICO CITY



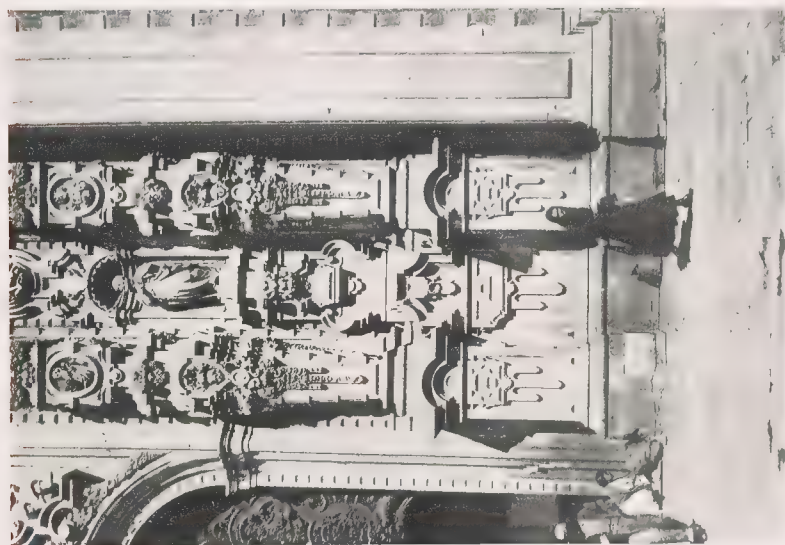
MEXICO CITY

DOORWAY



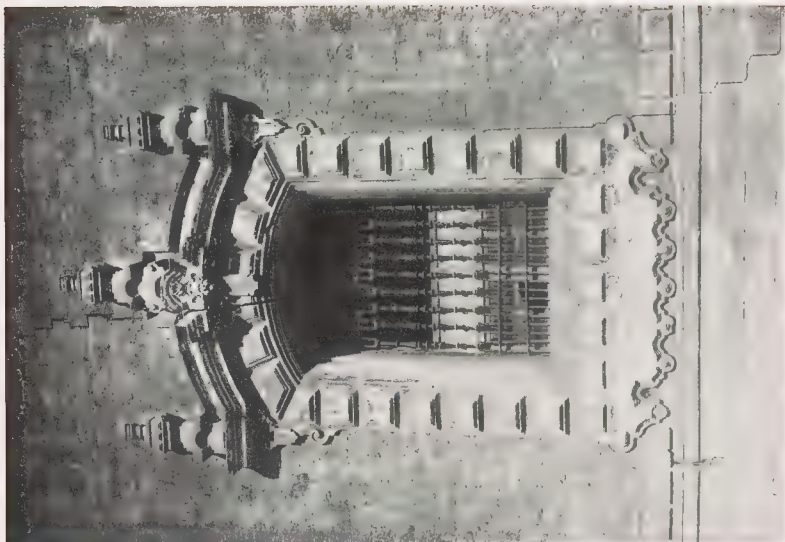
MEXICO CITY

IN THE PATIO OF THE MUSEUM



DETAIL OF FACADE OF THE SAGRARIO

MEXICO CITY



WINDOW IN THE SAGRARIO

MEXICO CITY



THE SAGRARIO

MEXICO CITY



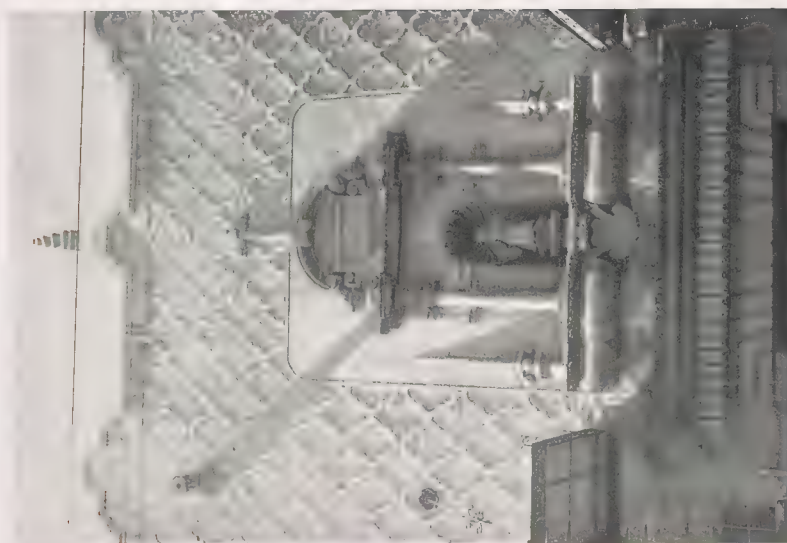
A CHURCH

NEAR MEXICO CITY



MEXICO CITY

CHURCH DOORWAY



MEXICO CITY

A DETAIL



MEXICO CITY

CONVENT OF CHURUBUSCO



ARCADE IN PATIO

MEXICO CITY



DOORWAY

MEXICO CITY



A FOUNTAIN

COLIMA



PATIO

MEXICO CITY



IN A PATIO

OAXACA



BUILDING

OAXACA



A PATIO

OAXACA



CHURCH OF SANGRE DE CRISTO

OAXACA



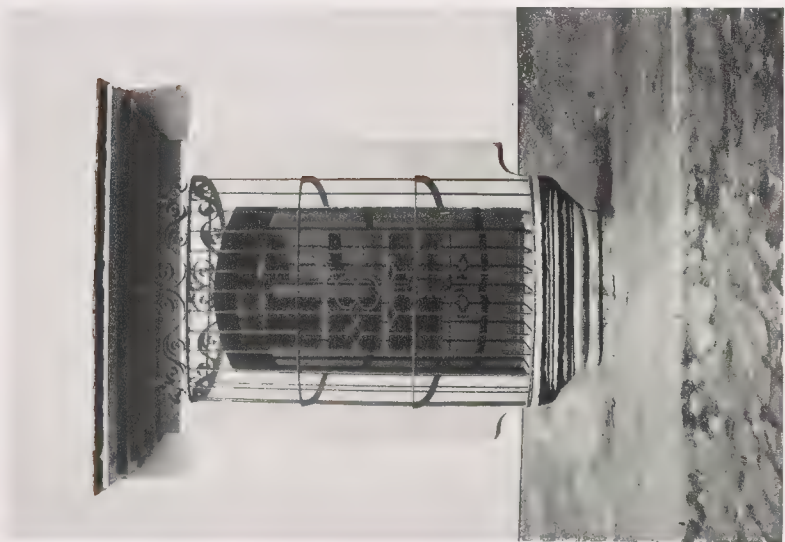
DOORWAY

OAXACA



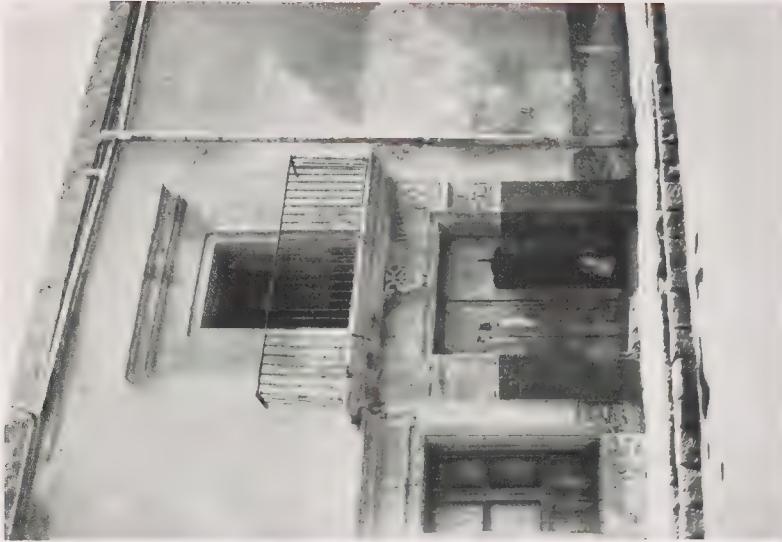
OAXACA

WINDOW



OAXACA

WINDOW



OAXACA

DOORWAY



OAXACA

BALCONY



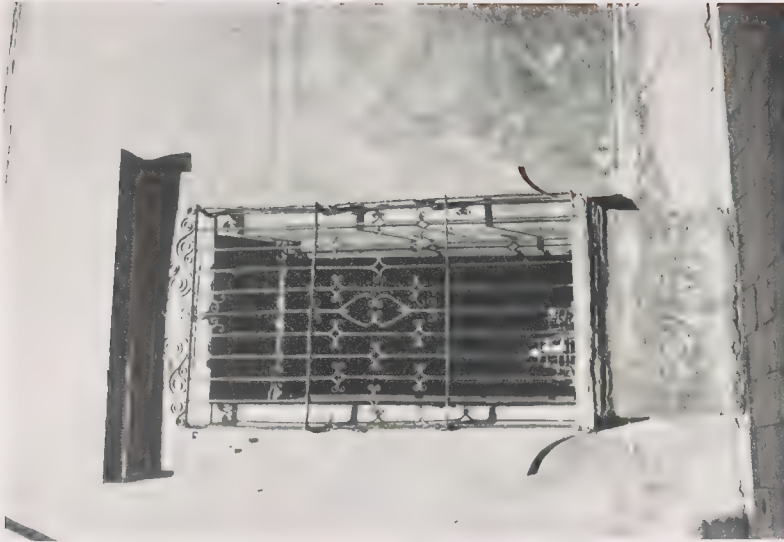
OAXACA

A WINDOW GRILLE



OAXACA

WINDOW GRILLE



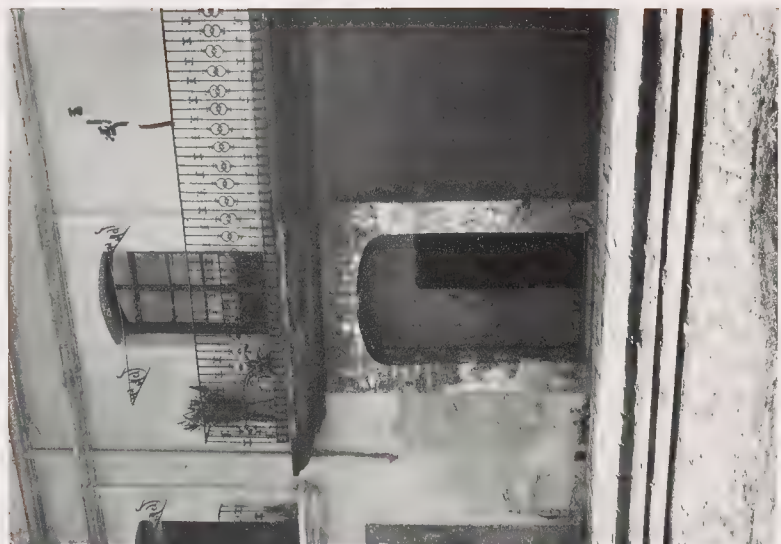
OAXACA

WINDOW GRILLE



OAXACA

WINDOW GRILLE



OAXACA

BALCONY AND DOORWAY



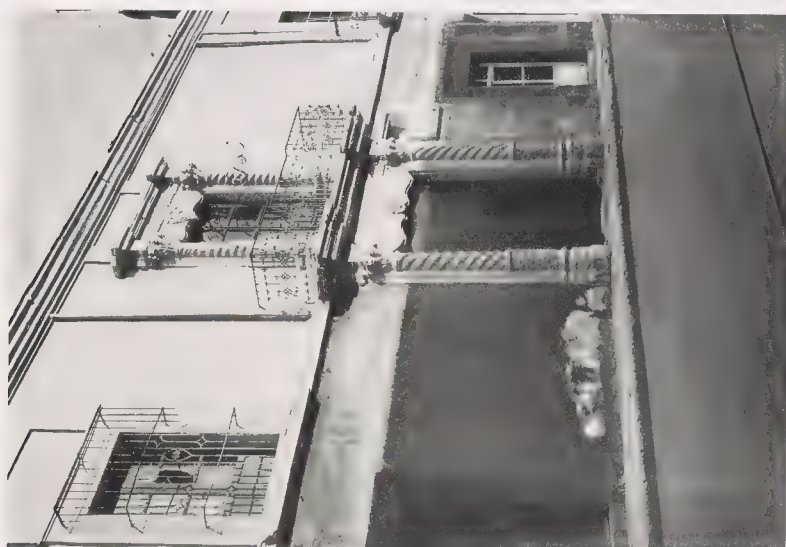
OAXACA

WINDOW GRILLE



OAXACA

A DOORWAY



OAXACA

A DOORWAY



THE EARLY FRANCISCAN CHURCH OF ACOLMAN



CHURCH AND CONVENT OF ACOLMAN
PARTIALLY SUBMERGED IN SILT



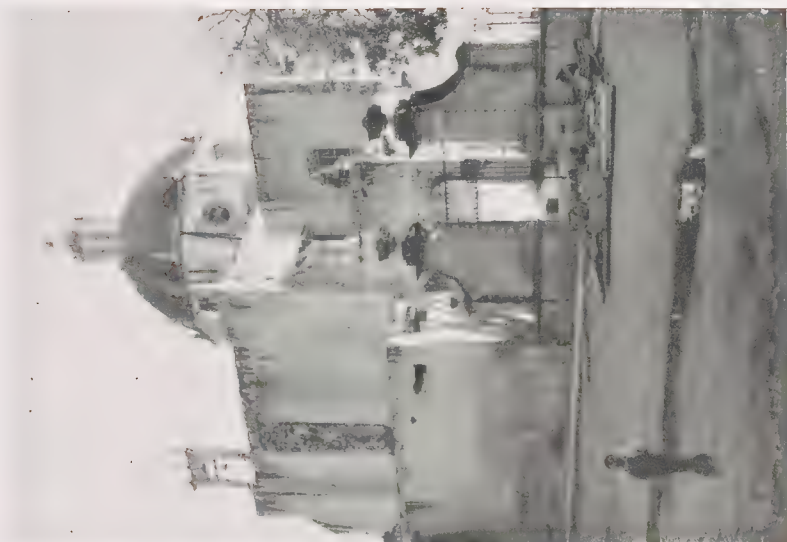
CORNER IN A PATIO

OAXACA



A CHURCH

SILAO



SILAO

DOME OF CHURCH



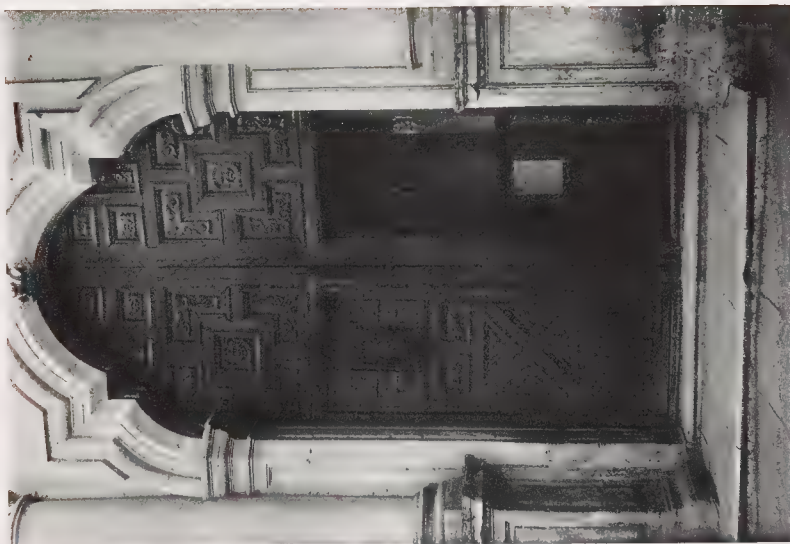
SILAO

DOORWAY



CHURCH

SILAO



SILAO

DOORWAY



QUERETARO

BALCONIES



SILAO

A PATIO



A RESIDENCE

PUEBLA



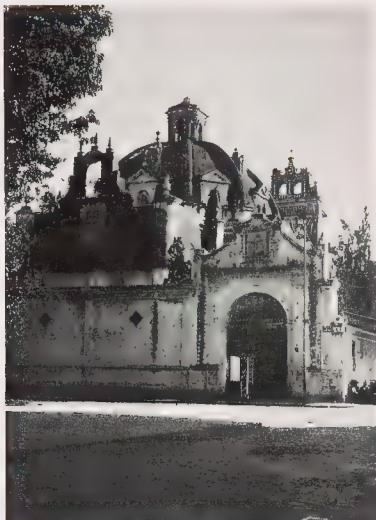
PUEBLA

TILE AND BRICK FACADE OF SAN FRANCISCO



PUEBLA

NORTH TRANSEPT DOOR, SAN FRANCISCO



BRICK AND TILE CHURCH

PUEBLA



A GLIMPSE IN PUEBLA



CHURCH OF GUADALUPE

PUEBLA



A CHAPEL

PUEBLA



PUEBLA

BRICK AND TILE FACADE OF SAN JUAN



PUEBLA

A FACADE



PUEBLA

A CORNER BAL CONY



CHAPEL

PUEBLA



IN A CHURCH YARD

PUEBLA



A FACADE

PUEBLA



DOORWAY

PUEBLA



A TILED WELL-CURB

PUEBLA



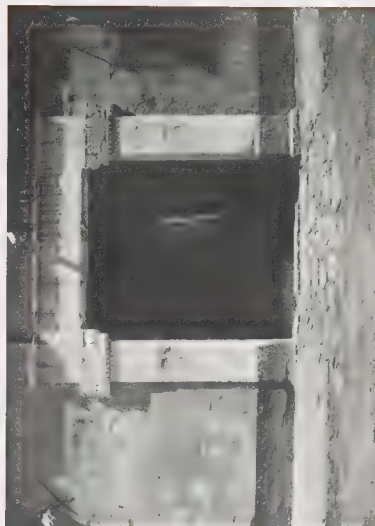
GRILLE IN A CHURCH

PUEBLA



BESIDE THE CATHEDRAL

PUEBLA



A DOORWAY

OAXACA

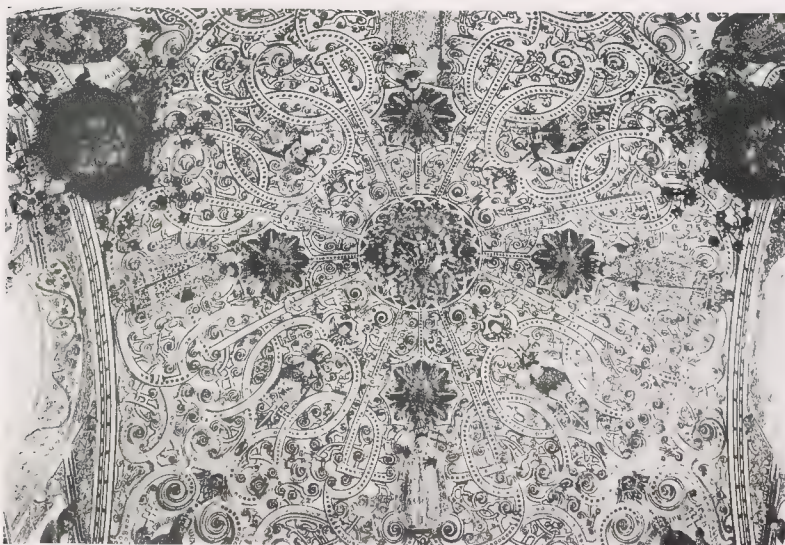


A FACADE

PUEBLA



CONVENT IN ESCUADALAJARA



WHITE AND GOLD DOME IN SANTO DOMINGO

OAXACA



GOLD AND WHITE PLASTER VAULT IN SANTO DOMINGO

OAXACA



CHURCHYARD GATEWAY

OAXACA



A FACADE IN OAXACA



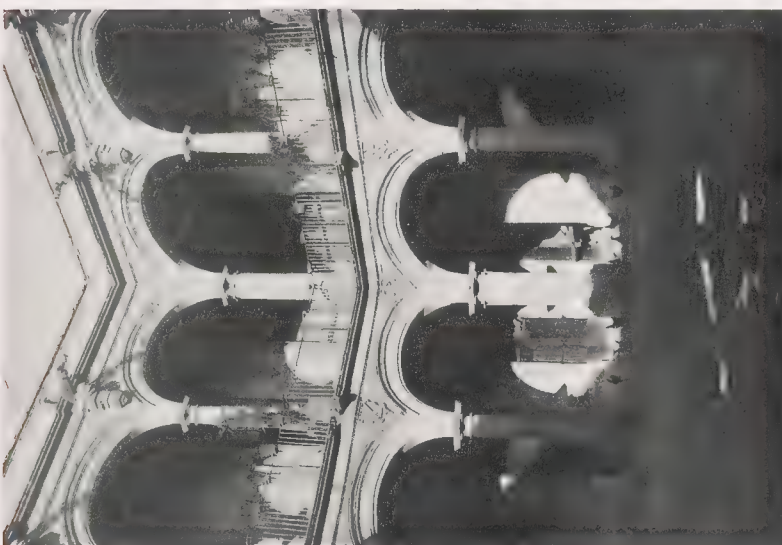
SAN PEDRO

THE MARKET PORTALS



SAN PEDRO

A CHURCHYARD GATEWAY



MORENO

A PATIO



CONVENT OF TZIN-TZUN-TZAN



CONVENT PATIO

TZIN-TZUN-TZAN



CLOISTER IN THE CONVENT OF ACOLMAN



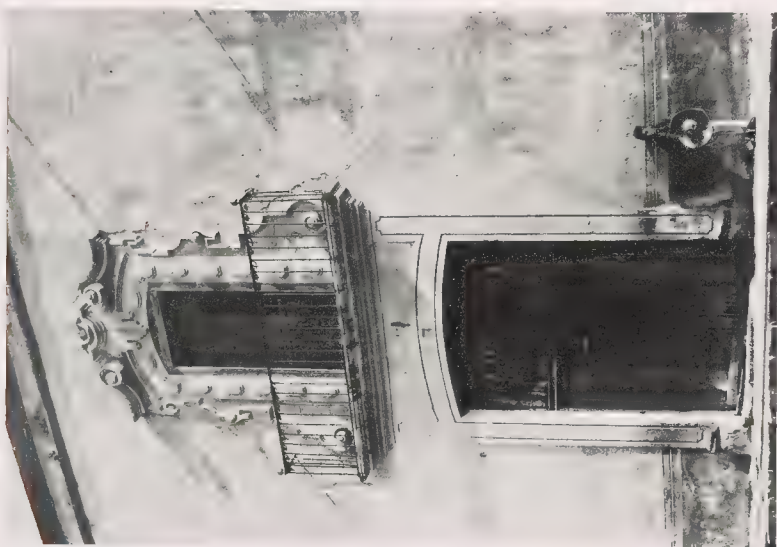
CHOLULA

THE PLAZA FOUNTAIN



CHOLULA

CHURCH



DOORWAY IN SAN MIGUEL ALLENDE



CHURCH

XOCHIMILCO



A SMALL PLAZA

TLAXCALA



MUNICIPAL PALACE

TLAXCALA



IN THE CONVENT OF CHURUBUSO



IN THE CONVENT OF CHURUBUSO

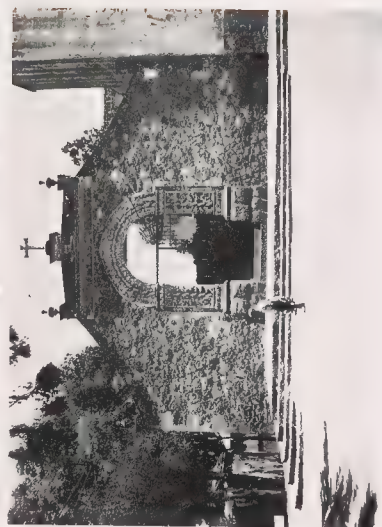


GATEWAY

CHURUBUSO



IN THE CONVENT OF CHURUBUSO



CHURCHYARD GATE

COYOACAN



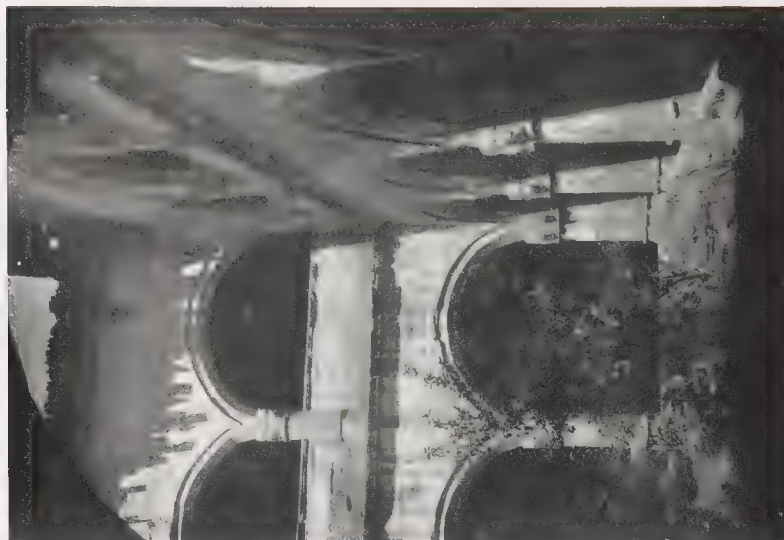
DOMES

ORIZABA



CLOISTER

AMECAMECA



A CORNER IN THE PATIO OF A CHURCH IN AMECAMECA



AMECAMECA

AN ARCH



A CHURCH

PATZCUARO



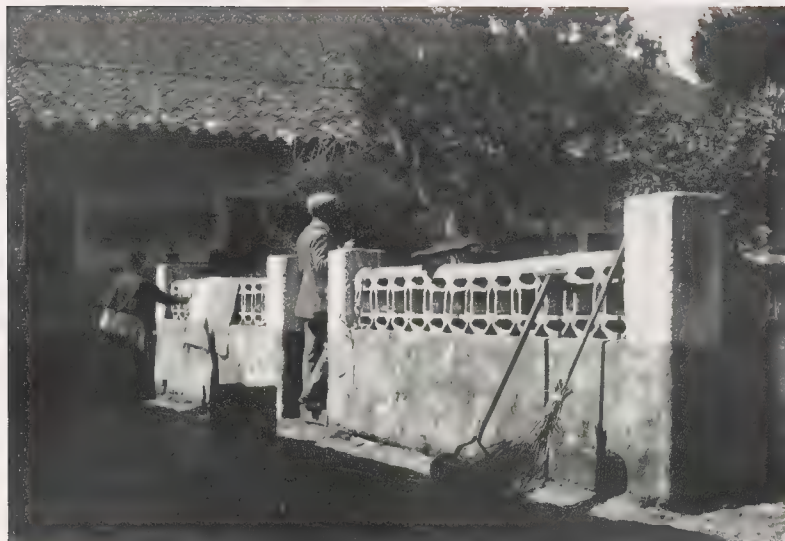
FACADE AND WELL

PATZCUARO



PILGRIMAGE STAIRWAY

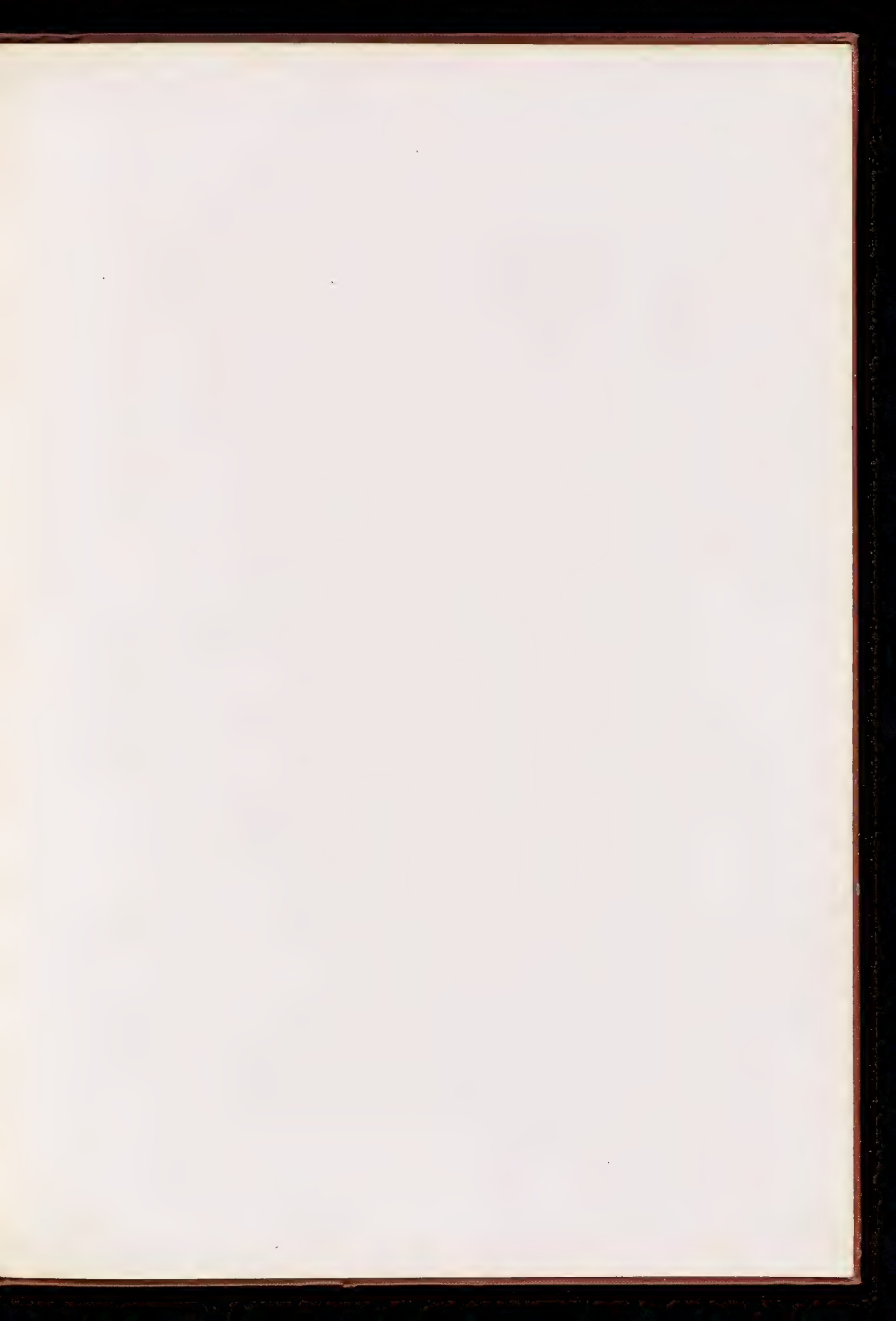
AMECAMECA

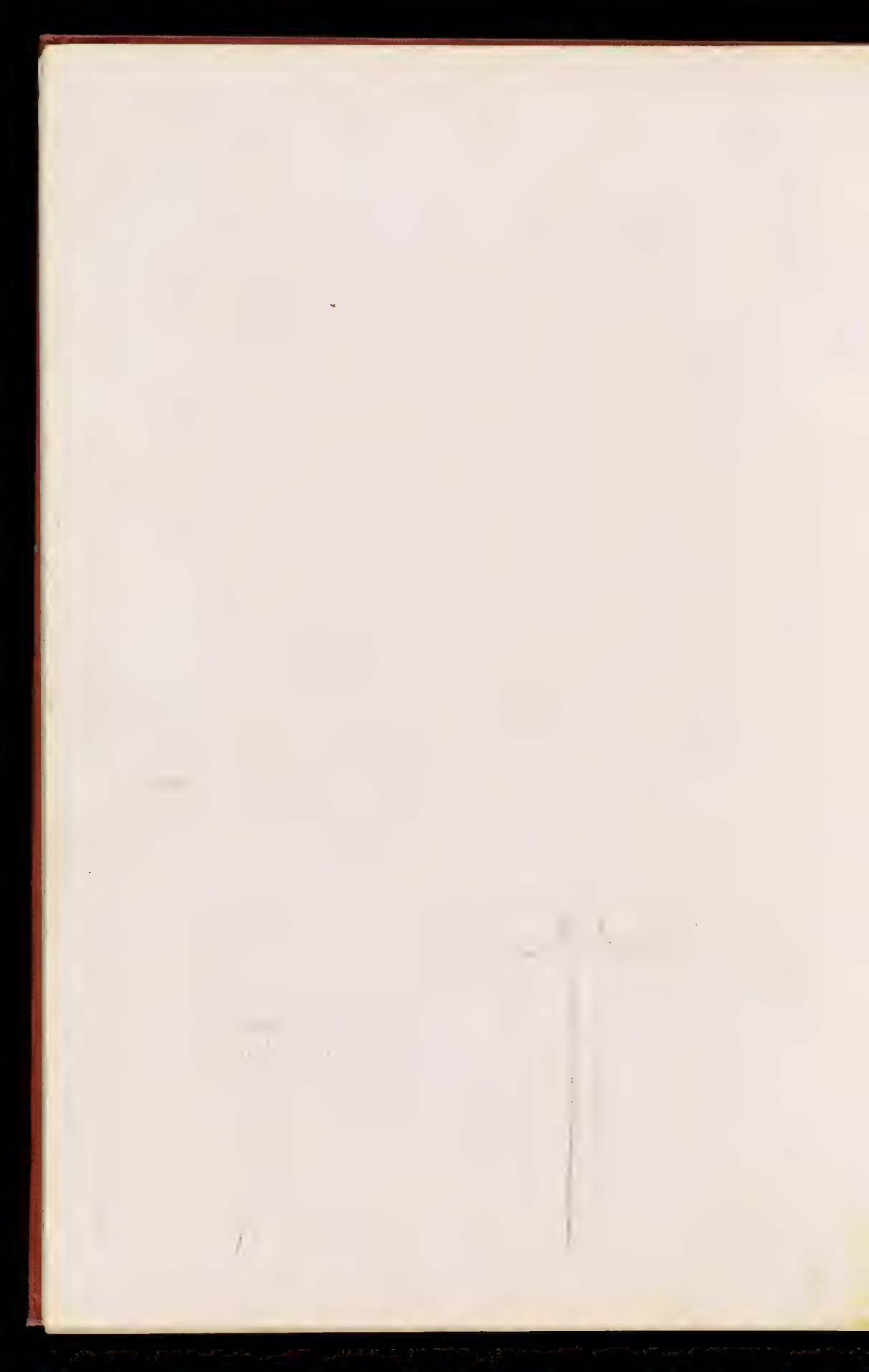


IN A PATIO

ORIZABA









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